

IDEAS AND STRATEGIES

for

Digital Storytelling in the 21st Century Classroom

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Digital Storytelling Elements

What is the Point of View?

Purpose, Message and Audience

Emotional Content

Why is this important? Emotion conveyed?

Story

Progression

Economizing

What happens or happened?

Voice

Pacing and Emotion

Soundtrack

Narration and/or Soundtrack/Effects



What is Digital Storytelling?

Living in a visual world, students of the 21st century must master the skills need to become life-long learners. 21st century skills for learning include: being innovative and creative; a critical thinker; strategies for problem solving; a contributing team member and collaborator; and an effective communicator.

With the advances in technology, digital storytelling allows students the opportunity for learning and the kind of teaching that emphasizes critical thinking, teamwork, consensus building and communication.

Storytelling is a constant throughout history. Digital storytelling uses technology to enhance the story. It focuses on learning communities, content and knowledge, media and information literacy, and marketing skills.

Taking a collaborative approach to defining and researching a topic or theme, students will develop skills in working with photos, text, images, graphics, sound and/or video and editing skills. These are essential skills for achieving success in the 21st century.

The following are ideas for using digital video in your content areas:



Nonfiction

Documentary

Informational

Public Service Announcement

Advertisements

Biographies

English Language Arts

Personal Narrative

Exploring our cultural heritage

Biographies

Autobiographies

Share an important event in your life

Family stories – tribute, an influential person

Retell

Take a field trip and students will retell events or recount what they saw

Retell a folk tale or traditional tale

Sequencing a story or event – who? what? when? where? and why?

Students can act out their favorite part of the story/event

Descriptive Writing

Compare and Contrast – characters, stories

Describe a character – looks, clothing, favorite sayings, environment

Change the setting, character(s) and/or problem for the story

How-to-do-it directions

Fiction

Creating a personal fictional fable

Students create their own story, myth, traditional tale, etc.

Put Goldilocks on trial for breaking and entering, destruction of property

Poetry

Finding the meaning of a song, is there a meaning of the song?

Class poetry assignment

Students creating their own poetry

Reading Activities

Finding the meaning of a song, is there a meaning of a song?

Class poetry project

Students create their own poetry

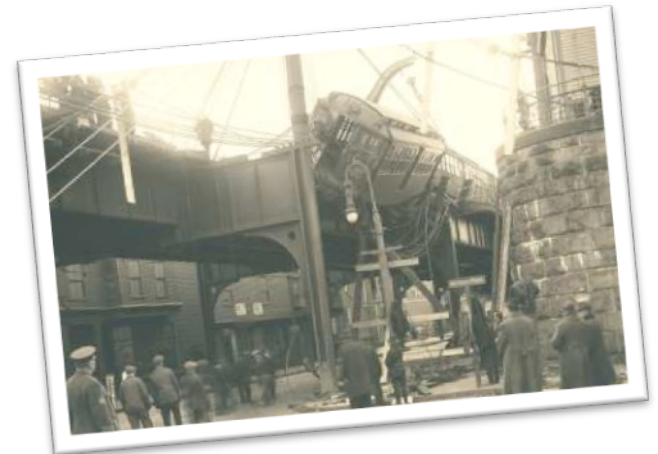
Yearbook – Reflections – our memories

Book Report

News report – What we learned this semester

Reflections on Readings – Field Trips

What is your “Point of View?”





Social Studies

Select an explorer – tell their story from their perspective, create a digital diary, interview the explorer

Explore different parts of the country – report on the similarities and differences to New England

Geography

Develop an ad as to why should we visit their researched part of the United States or

Develop an ad for why we should visit the Country the child has researched

Explore different countries around the world

Agriculture in various parts of the United States or other countries

Climate – How it effects farming etc.

Tectonic plates how they are changing the face of our planet

Explore Our

Explore our community (Boston) – significant events, how has Boston grown and changed?

Boston – points of interest

Boston – historical information

Boston – historical figures that has shaped

Boston and the United States

Boston – Cultural melting pot

Boston – Visit historical, cultural, museums, zoos etc.

Boston – Interview a local historian, business man/woman

Boston – Create a virtual field trip for students

Boston – Develop a news show to report on student findings

Boston – Re-enact a historical event that took place in Boston and its impact on the community

Boston – Government

Boston – Economy

Boston – Politics

Boston – Commerce

Boston – Communities

ePortfolios

Work with students to select their best work

Students may narrate their work

Record progress to show progression of learning

Demonstrate skills and content learned (students

remember concepts as they teach what they have learned)

Use technology show authentic learning samples



History

American History Topics

Compare historical event to what is happening in the world today
Colonization of America
Influence of Europe
Native Americans
Revolution
Presidents and Presidential Elections
Expansion of the west
Civil War
Gettysburg Address
Slavery in America
Weather that changed the course of history
The Great Depression
Stories from the Dust Bowl
Stories from World War I
World War II
The Holocaust
Hiroshima
Korean War
Vietnam War
Civil Rights movement
American culture today vs. the past
The race to the moon
Gulf War
War in the Middle East
Famous leaders in United States and abroad
What is the American Dream?



**12 KILLED WHEN TANK
OF MOLASSES EXPLODES**
*Hugh Sheets of Steel, Hurled
Through Air, Destroy Structures
on Boston Waterfront.*



The Melting Pot

Take a phrase... I have a dream...

Ask not what your country
can do for you, but for what
can you do for your
country. What does this
mean for you?

Locate a person in the community
that can share their stories –
war stories, significant
event they have lived
through, etc

Re-enact a historical event - world
perspective

Interview a historical figure

Biographies

Government

Democracy and US Politics

Economy

Imports and exports

Explore the Constitution

Explore local government

Explore the branches of America

Executive Branch

Judicial Branch

State Government

Compare and contrast different governments

How does a Bill become a Law?

World History

Stone age culture and art

Mesopotamia

Incas and their culture

Last Days of Pompeii

Ancient Greece

Rise and fall of the Roman Empire

What happened at Easter Island?

How did they build the Great Pyramids?

How and why Stonehenge was built?

Exploration throughout History

Famous Explorers

Great Wall of China

World War I

World War II

The Holocaust

Hiroshima

Korean War

Vietnam War

Governments of the world

Global economy

Video Brochures on historical events



Mathematics

Mathematical Ideas

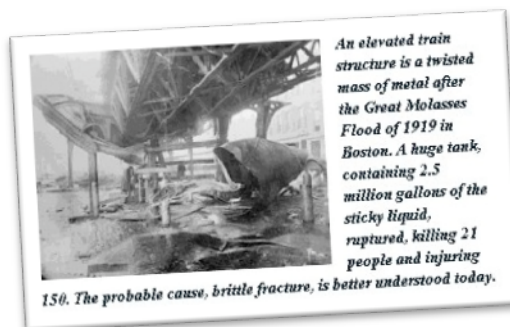
Exploring shapes around the school or in our community
Demonstrate strategies used in solving a math problem
Re-teach a math concept. Have students develop a short video on how they solved a specific math problem and how it connects to real life scenarios.

Mathematics in Architectural Design
Geometry in Architecture and in Art Work



The Arts

Explore artists that have changed our world
Explore the advancement of artistic creativity from cavemen through the 21st century
Explore influential artists in architecture, art, and music
Explore the history of music
Prepare a music video
Documentary on
Prepare a how-to do a rap
Music and culture
Dramatize a play, poem or story



General Ideas

Prepare for an oral presentation
Community Service
Prepare for a field trip
Visit a field trip site a head of time
Prepare a short video to catch the students' interest before a field trip
Old time radio show
Documentaries
News, Weather and Sports report
Make a video on interview techniques – Good and Bad senerios

Health and Physical Education

Explore Obesity
Health concerns for all ages
Living Healthy
Nutrition
Sports – How to perform
Roman Games
History of the Olympics
History of sports in America
Impact of TV on the youth of today
Sports and culture
Medical Advances

Science Exploration

Environment
Take a nature walk
 Pond, forest, desert, ocean, streams
Ancient seas
Shipwrecks
Natural Disasters that changed the world
Nuclear power
Alternative energy sources
Weather that changed the course of history
Rainforests and human invasion
Impact of man on animal habitats
Digging up the past - archeological sites
Rebuilding prehistoric mammals
Animals – How they adapt to their
 environment
Explore differences and similarities animal
 survival to man's survival
From a Cocoon to Butterfly – capture the
 process
Tell a story from the animal's perspective
Create an informational video about a specific
 animal (mammal or reptile)
Explore zoos, aquariums, and museums
Explore the Planets
How did the universe begin?
Is there life on Mars? Other Planets?
Predicting Halley's comet
Is there life in space?
Space Travel
How do rockets fly?
How do satellites' stay in space?
How has technology advances impact science
 exploration?

Experiments and Research

Use digital storytelling to write a science
lab report
Predict the hypothesis
Capture the experiment on film
Record conclusions made from the
experiment
Demonstrate a science principle – simple
 machines, levers, physics principles,
 chemistry, geology, biology
Create an animation to demonstrate a
 science project – tadpole to frog
Tectonic plates how they are responsible f
 or earthquakes, volcanic action, title
 waves, and tsunamis?
Demonstrate a science concept such as the
 water cycle
Have students point out and explain parts
 of a plant
Secrets of seeds and pollination
How do planes fly?
Why don't steel ships sink?
How do submarines stay under water?
Fast can animals run, swim, fly?
How old is Earth?
How do we predict weather?
How can we predict earthquakes,
 tsunamis?
How can we predict volcanoes?
How do they measure sound?
How do they measure the speed of sound?
Can we communicate with animals?
Demolishing a skyscraper
Build tunnels (Big Dig)
How do tunnels meet in the middle?
Surviving extreme weather

Discoveries/Inventions

How have inventions changed the world?
Fire
Tools/weapons
Simple machines
Medical and medicine advances
Computers
Internet and Wireless Technology
Black holes
Preventing illness
Household appliances
Genetic fingerprinting
Refine metal from ore
Making glass from sand
How do they make electricity?

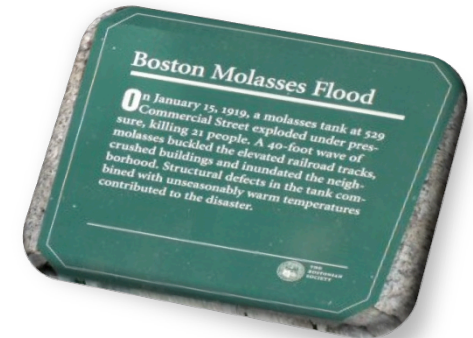
How Things Work

Telephones
Computers – how do they talk?
Televisions
CD players
iPods
Internet
Holograms
Eyeglasses
Clocks
Robotics
Spaceships
Seatbelts in cars

The Great Molasses Flood in Boston

On January 15, 1919, a molasses storage tank at 529 Commercial Street in the North End exploded. A 35-40 foot wave of molasses inundated the neighborhood and businesses. 21 people died and 150 people were injured. Many buildings were crushed and elevated train tracks buckled. Structural defects in the design of the tank and unseasonable warm weather all contributed to the explosion.

Today the site of the explosion is playground.



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